

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 243

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Whisperin' Bill Anderson.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exceptional musicians who have received recognition as signal artists in the tradition of country music, a vital part of Tennessee's cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy artist is Whisperin' Bill Anderson, who was recently awarded the first ever Poet's Award by the Academy of Country Music (ACM), which held its first ACM Honors ceremony at the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville on September 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson was born in Columbia, South Carolina and raised in Decatur, Georgia; he currently lives in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nineteen, Whisperin' Bill Anderson wrote his first big hit, "City Lights," which was recorded by Ray Price; fifty years later, Mr. Anderson writes and co-writes songs loved by today's audiences, including songs like "Whiskey Lullaby" and "Give It Away"; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, the Grand Ole Opry welcomed him as a member, and he continues to perform there and at venues across the United States and Canada, often with his Po' Folks Band; and

WHEREAS, Whisperin' Bill Anderson has not only been a country music songwriter but a performer as well; his career includes twenty-three years of singing hits for Decca Records. In 1963, he released the single "Still," which became his signature tune and a major hit with fans of pop music and country music alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson's songs have been performed and recorded by numerous artists, including James Brown, Debbie Reynolds, Ivory Joe Hunter, Kitty Wells, Faron Young,

Lawrence Welk, Dean Martin, Jerry Lee Lewis, Aretha Franklin, Walter Brennan, George Strait, Brad Paisley, Alison Krauss, The Oak Ridge Boys, Vince Gill, Joe Nichols, Porter Wagoner, Jean Shepard, Kenny Chesney, and many others; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, Whisperin' Bill Anderson has also written two books, hosted a number of television and radio shows, and taken his unique wit with him to appear on several television game shows; for three years, he acted on the ABC's daytime soap opera "One Life to Live"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Anderson has received recognition from the Country Music Association (CMA), which honored him with the 2001 Vocal Event of the Year Award for his collaboration on "Too Country"; the CMA also awarded him with Song of the Year in 2005 for "Whiskey Lullaby" and again in 2007 for "Give It Away"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its first Poet's Award, the ACM has honored Whisperin' Bill Anderson with its 2007 Song of the Year Award for "Give It Away" and the Gospel Music Association gave him a Dove Award in 2007 for his song "Jonah, Job, and Moses"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson has been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of fame, the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Georgia Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the South Carolina Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Whisperin' Bill Anderson truly epitomizes the creative spirit and commitment to the State's cultural heritage that are characteristic of a true Tennessee artist; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud him for his dedication to the tradition of country music and the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Whisperin' Bill Anderson upon his impressive career in music, thank him for all he has done to preserve and extend the musical heritage of this State, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.